S. No.	Pesticides
18	Diuron
19	EDB
20	Endosulfan
21	Ethyl Mercury Chloride
22	Fenarimol
*23	Heptachlor
24	Lindane
25	Malathion
26	Maleic Hydrazide
27	Menazon
28	Methomyl
29	Methyl Parathion
30	Monocrotophos
31	Oxyflourfen
32	Paraquat Dichloride
33	Phorate
34	Phosphamidon
35	Sodium Cyanide
36	Sodium Methane Arsonate
37	Thiometon
38	Thiram
39	Triazophos
40	Tridemorph
41	Zinc Phosphate
42	Ziram
43	2, 4—D

* The e pesticides are under fresh review as per the directions of Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan.

Use of Plastics in Agriculture

4075. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRI SOM PAL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen a report published in the Economic Times of 29th March, 1994 under the title "Innovative use of Plasticulture may revolutionise agriculture";

(b) if so, whether Government agrees with the perceptions of Dr. A. N. Sarkar ;

(c) if so, what steps are being contemplated to popularise use of plastics in our agriculture and what are the uses and areas identified therefor ?

(d) whether Government are thinking of making plastics, especially, plastic pipes available to farmers at cheaper rates ; and

(e) if so, what measures are being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have initiated steps to promote various plasticulture applications like drip irrigation, mulching, greenhouse, packing material etc. For this purpose, a sum of Rs. 250 crores has been provided during VIII Plan under the scheme of 'Use of Plastics in Agriculture' exclusively for horticultural crops and a further sum of Rs. 25 crores for drip irrigation under the scheme of Oil Palm Development Programme of Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses (TMO & P). to addition, assistance is also being provided by National Horticulture Board (NHB) for propagating use of Plastic crates under its Integrated Post-harvest Management Scheme. Awareness is being created amongst farmers and State Government officials about the benefits of plastics use through training and demonstration. In addition to above uses, plastic have also found very useful application in lining of ponds, irrigation channel, poly bags for nurseries etc.

(d) and (e) In order to motivative the farmers to install drip irrigation system, Government is providing 50% subsidy subject to a maximum of Rs. 15,000 per hac. Government is also in regular contact with system manufacturers for providing back-up support in form of installation, training and occasional monitoring of the system and for rationalising the price structure.

Crop-wise acreage, production and per acre yield of pulses

4076. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the crop-wise acreage, production and per acre yield of pulses during the last three years in the country ;

(b) whether it is a fact that per capita net availability of pulses in India has gone down since 1951 ;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(d) what has been the quantity and value of pulses imported during the last three years ;

(e) whether it is also a fact that increasing production and productivity of pulses still remains a critical area ; and

(f) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what is being done in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The All India Area Production and yield of Pulses

during the last 3 years in the country is as follows :

Area = '000 Hectares, Production = '000 Tonnes, Yield = Kgs/ha.

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Area .	24662	22543	23743
Production	14265	12015	13599
Yield .	578	533	573

(b) and (c) The per capita net availability of pulses has gone down from 60.7 gms/day in 1951 to 36.6 gms/day (provisional) in 1993.

(d) The quantity and value of pulses imported during the last three years is as under :

Quantity in Tonnes Value in Rs. Crores		
Year	Quantity	Value
1990-91 . . .	1273433	481.17
1991-92 . . .	310604	254.24
1992-93 . . .	578799	325.98

(e) and (f) The major constraints in pulses' production are; cultivation on marginal and sub-marginal lands, dependence on rains, lack of application of production inputs, lack of genetic breakthrough and suspectability to pests and diseases. In order to raise production of pulses to meet the domestic demand the centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project is under implementation in 24 States and Union Territories of Delhi and Andaman and Nicobar Islands in selected districts in major pulses producing States and in entire States in the minor pulses producing States.

Hike in prices of Essential Commodities

4077. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1596 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th March, 1994 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of essential commodities in the country have increased by 30% to 70% since June, 1991 ; and

(b) whether Government propose to provide any relief to common man against the hike in price ; and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) (a) The percentage variations in indices of whole-sale prices of rice, wheat, pulses, sugar and edible oils as on 2-4-1994 compared with that on 1-6-1991 are as under :—

Item	2-4-1994 / 1-6-1991
Rice	+38.6
Wheat	+63.6
Pulses	+34.24
Sugar	+55.8
Edible Oils	—5.5

(b) In order to keep the open market prices of wheat and rice at reasonable level the Food Corporation of India have undertaken open sale of wheat and rice from the Central Pool. This has had a sobering effect on the open market prices of these commodities. To improve the availability of sugar in the open market and to maintain prices of sugar at reasonable level, the Government has permitted import of sugar under O.G.L.

The Government has been monitoring the prices and availability of essential commodities of mass consumption on regular basis. An Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution reviews the prices, availability, shortage etc., if any, of the 12 selected essential commodities on a regular basis.

Letters written by Members of Parliament

4078. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1990 to 31st March, 1993 alongwith year-wise details thereof;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them ;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (c) The year-wise information in respect of letters received from Members of Parliament, the number of those letters that were acknowledged